

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of the Claims

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) A method of detecting hepcidin comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a tissue or fluid sample from a subject; and (b) contacting the sample with an antibody or fragment thereof that specifically binds to one or more carboxy terminal epitopes contained within amino acids 70 to 84 of SEQ ID NO: 2; wherein the tissue or fluid sample is selected from the group consisting of a kidney sample, a liver sample, and a urine sample, and wherein the method of detecting hepcidin is selected from the group consisting of Western blot, immunodot, immunohistochemistry, and immunofluorescence.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said hepcidin is hepcidin, prohepcidin or fragments thereof.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said hepcidin is prohepcidin.